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Control: 5009
Rec'd: JULY 7, 1962
10:19 AM

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FROM: GENEVA

TO: Secretary of State

NO: CONFE 1188, JULY 7, NOON

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT CONFE 1188, INFORMATION BANGKOK PRIORITY 19, LONDON PRIORITY 20, MOSCOW PRIORITY 6, PARIS PRIORITY 21, SAIGON PRIORITY 9, VIENTIANE PRIORITY 18

AFTERNOON JULY 6, LAO DELEGATION PRODUCED TEXT NEUTRALITY DECLARATION WHICH FORWARDED BY LETTER FROM QUINIM TO TWO CO-CHAIRMEN. TEXT, WHICH BASED ALMOST EXACTLY ON FOREIGN POLICY SECTION ZURICH COMMUNIQUE, OMITS SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SEATO, BUT ALSO OMITS ANY LANGUAGE ON 1 INTEGRATION DEMOBILIZATION ARMED FORCES, 2 ON POLITICAL DETAINEES, 3 ON REPRISALS AND 4 ON DENYING THE USE OF LAO TERRITORY FOR SUBVERSIVE INTERFERENCE IN AFFAIRS OTHER STATES.

INSTEAD OF SUBMITTING DOCUMENT AS DRAFT TO CO-CHAIRMEN FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED, QUINIM LETTER ASKED THAT IT BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DELEGATIONS "AS CONFERENCE DOCUMENT" AND THAT A MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE BE CALLED IN ORDER TO HAVE DOCUMENT READ BY LAO DELEGATION. LETTER ALSO WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT REFERENCE TO SEATO HAD BEEN OMITTED ON UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MEMBERS OF THAT ORGANIZATION HAD "PROMISED" TO WITHDRAW ITS PROTECTION FROM LAOS. IN CASE "THIS PROMISE NOT KEPT," LAO DELEGATION PROPOSED ADDING PHRASE "INCLUDING SEATO" AFTER CLAUSE IN WHICH PROTECTION MILITARY ALLIANCES ESCHEWED.

IN VIEW FOREGOING, MACDONALD TOLD QUINIM, WHEN LATTER DELIVERED DOCUMENTS BRITISH VILLA, THAT LETTER WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN. ALSO STATED THAT TEXT DECLARATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WORKING DRAFT SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION, RATHER THAN INVIOLABLE CLAUSE. US DEL HAS OF COURSE STRONGLY ENDORSED

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THIS STAND. ALTHOUGH MACDONALD SAW SOUVANNA LAST EVENING, OCCASION WAS DINNER AT WHICH PUSHKIN PRESENT; AND SUBJECT THEREFORE NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. HE IS, HOWEVER SEEING SOUVANNA AGAIN THIS MORNING TO STRAIGHTEN OUT PROCEDURE AND BEGIN DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE. HARRIMAN WILL SEE HIM THIS AFTERNOON.

TUBBY

CC

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